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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.		50X1
SUBJECT	New Czechoslovak 7.92 mm (?) LMG, Model 52	DATE DISTR.	26 October 1955	
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED				

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

50X1 SOURCE: [redacted]

50X1 [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] Available for loan at the CIA Library is a memory sketch of the new LMG described in the report.

Distribution of Attachment (Sketch of LMG):

OOD

CIA Library : Retention (negative and 2 copies)

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES (80)

3-02-0406 10/55

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238.21 27M

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[redacted]

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 22 Sept. 1955

SUBJECT New Czechoslovak 7.92 mm (?) LMG, Model 52 NO. OF PAGES 4

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

Issue

1. In the [REDACTED] unit received 12 new 7.92 mm LMG's, Model 52 to replace the German 7.92 mm. machine gun known to source by its Czech nickname "KOSA". These new LMG's were designated for the [REDACTED] defense. This was common knowledge among base airmen and source also observed that all of the other Air Force units stationed [REDACTED] were issued new-type LMG's at the same time as his own unit.

Classroom Instruction

2. Two or three months after the arrival of the new weapons, familiarization classes were conducted, alternately by the battalion CO, the battalion ordnance officer and one of the conscripted platoon sergeants. These classes covered the functioning, disassembly, assembly and maintenance of the weapon. They were part of normal weekly classes of military training and lasted five hours per week (given on two days a week) over a three-month period.
3. Classroom instruction was based on a secret manual, "Lehky Kulomet Pouzivany v CS Armade, vzor 52" (Light Machine Gun Employed in the Czechoslovak Army, Model 52). Five copies of this manual arrived at the [REDACTED] Secret Documents Section, i.e., Secret Control, two or three months after the arrival of the weapons, and then classroom instruction started.

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Range Firing of New Weapon

4. Source stated that he fired the new LMG approximately eight times at the [] firing range.² Each time he fired three single and seven automatic shots at half-silhouette targets from the prone position and at 300 m. The minimum passing score,³ source guessed, was 18 points for each of the two firing categories. This firing was part of the regularly scheduled military training. Source last fired the new LMG in []

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Characteristics

5. Characteristics of the 7.92 mm LMG, Model 52 were as follows:

Caliber ⁵	7.92 mm
Model	52
Type of Operation	Gas, impinging
Type of Fire	Semi- and full-automatic
Muzzle Velocity	Believed by source to be 900 m per second
Cyclic Rate of Fire	Faster than that of the ZB-26 7.92 mm Czech LMG ⁶
Practical Rate of Fire	Unknown to source
Range	Unknown to source
Weight, empty	Approximately four kilograms
Weight w/magazine loaded	Approximately five kilograms
Length	Approximately 1.30 m.
Barrel Length	Approximately 90 cm.
Rifling	Six lands with right hand twist
Type of Muzzle Adapter	Flash hider
Stock	Wooden, w/shoulder firing support
Sight: Front	Offset, blade type on right side of barrel
Rear	Radial arm and drum - arm elevated and depressed vertically - graduated up to 1,500 m. Source remembered the graduations as being 100, 200, 300, 500, 700, 900, 1,000, 1,100, 1,200, 1,300, 1,400 and 1,500 m.
Feeding Mechanism	Non-disintegrating, 80 round capacity metallic belt and a curved box, 25-round capacity magazine.
Cooling	Air
Ammunition Used	Only ball ammunition was used by source when he fired the weapon. ⁵

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Markings

Source believed that on the left side, the year of manufacture was stamped (such as "53") and also the factory trademark and serial number. However, he did not remember the latter.

Description

6. Source stated that the new LMG appeared to be similar in design and operation to the Czech 7.92 mm LMG, Model ZB-26. However, he noted the following major differences between the ZB-26 and the new LMG, Model 52⁸:
- a. The new model incorporated a belt feeding mechanism, in addition to a 25-round magazine.
 - b. The gas operating-cylinder and piston-rod had been shortened considerably.
 - c. The new model had no cooling fins on the barrel.
 - d. The new model incorporated two triggers within one. Using the upper half of the trigger permitted semi-automatic firing, while the lower half permitted full automatic fire. The same principle was employed on the German 7.92 mm MG, Model 34.
 - e. The new model eliminated the cocking handle on the right side of the receiver. Cocking was accomplished instead by pulling the entire trigger group to the rear. This method of cocking appeared to be similar to that of the Czech HMG, Models ZB-50 and 53, in that the pistol grips served to cock the weapon.
 - f. The new model eliminated the barrel-unlocking lever on the left side of the receiver. Source could not describe fully the principle of unlocking and locking the barrel, but he stated that a lever had to be lifted approximately 30 degrees and the barrel given a turn to the right for removal. The procedure was reversed for assembly and locking.
 - g. The new model might be fired from a magazine or belt. When using the belt magazine, the cover had to be lifted upward, after which the belt was inserted and the magazine cover closed. Source could not describe the belt feed mechanism other than that a part of some kind would move the belt from right to left.

Disassembly

7. Source described the successive steps of disassembling the new LMG as follows:
- a. The pistol grip was pushed forward to release tension on the recoil spring.
 - b. By means of turning a lock cover in the butt of the stock, the recoil spring and rod were removed by pulling them out.
 - c. To remove the barrel, a lever was lifted approximately 30 degrees (lever position unknown to source) and the barrel turned to the right and pulled out.
 - d. To remove the bolt and slide assembly, the magazine cover was lifted up and the bolt and slide assembly then grasped and pulled up and to the rear.
 - e. Source did not know any further disassembly operations.

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Assembly

7. Source stated that assembly was done in reverse order of disassembly.

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1. [] for source's knowledge of the LMG manual.

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2. [], point 16, for source's information on this firing range.

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3. [] Comment: Source did not know the maximum possible score for either the three single shots or the seven automatic shots. However, the target used for this shooting had a bull's-eye value of 12 for each hit. It is therefore extremely probable that the maximum possible score was 36 for the single shots and 84 for the automatic shots, as compared with respective minimum passing scores of 18 and 18.

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4. [] Comment: This range firing procedure was exactly the same as that for the new Czechoslovak 7.92 mm HMG which will be covered in a forthcoming []

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5. [] Comment: The caliber of 7.92 mm given by source is considered to be wrong. The ammunition description given by source tends to indicate that the Czechs have developed a new round; and a physical specimen of this round which was obtained was of 7.62 caliber. Source was closely questioned on this caliber, being shown several rounds and asked to select the most similar one, but he refused to change his statement. However, he selected the US T-56 cartridge as that most similar to the Czech LMG one.

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6. [] Comment: After a discussion on the ZB-26 model LMG, the characteristics of which are well known, source was shown one of these weapons which is in Ordnance hands. He readily identified it and used it to point out the differences between the new Model 52 and the one before him.

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